

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM, SOPN, UR, US
SUBJECT: PRAVDA ON SOVIET-U.S. RELATIONS

SUMMARY: PRAVDA JUNE 7 CARRIES ARTICLE ENTITLED
"ZIGZAGS ON THE POTOMAC" BY G. VASIL'EV WHICH HARSHLY
CONDEMNS ADMINISTRATION HANDLING OF SOVIET-
U.S. RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. VASIL'EV OPENS HIS ARTICLE BY CITING WESTERN PRESS
SOURCES TO CAST DOUBT ON THE TRUTH OF THE PRESIDENT'S
ASSERTION THAT SALT HAS NOT BEEN FROZEN. HE THEN GOES
ON TO DEPLORE THE ADMINISTRATION'S "INFLEXIBILITY," ITS
ALLEGED DESIRE TO SLOW DOWN SALT NEGOTIATIONS, ITS
STATEMENTS ON SOVIET POLICY, AND ITS ALLEGED ACCOMMODA-
TION OF ANTI-SOVIET FORCES. THE U.S. IS ACCUSED OF
IGNORING AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH THE USSR CALLING FOR
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THE SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES BY PEACEFUL MEANS IN ORDER
TO EXPAND BILATERAL COOPERATION. NATIONAL SECURITY
ADVISOR BRZEZINSKI IS SINGLED OUT AS HAVING SPOKEN IN
THE LANGUAGE OF THE COLDEST DAYS OF THE COLD WAR AND
FOR SEEKING TO MOVE SOVIET-U.S. RELATIONS FROM COOPERA-
TION TO CONFRONTATION.

2. STATING THAT "ELEMENTS OF REALISM ARE PERCEPTIBLE" IN THE STATEMENTS OF SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE, OF PAUL WARNKE, AND OF OTHER U.S. OFFICIALS, VASIL'EV THEN ASKS RHETORICALLY "WHO TODAY IN WASHINGTON EXPRESSES THE TRUE LINE OF THE ADMINISTRATION?" VASIL'EV LEAVES NO DOUBT THAT U.S. POLICY IS VEERING IN AN ANTI-SOVIET DIRECTION DUE TO THE PREVAILING INFLUENCE OF RIGHT-WING FORCES. HE ASCRIBES "THE ZIGZAGS OF THE ADMINISTRATION" TO POLITICAL FACTORS (ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS, DECLINE OF THE PRESIDENT'S POPULARITY) WHICH HAVE LED THE ADMINISTRATION TO MOVE TO THE RIGHT AND TO TAKE A HARD LINE IN FOREIGN POLICY.

3. COMMENT: THIS ARTICLE, PROBABLY INTENDED TO ANTICIPATE THE PRESIDENT'S ANNAPOLIS SPEECH, IS AMONG THE HARDEST-HITTING PIECES MOSCOW HAS PUBLISHED IN RECENT MONTHS. ALTHOUGH HE SPEAKS OF "ZIGZAGS", VASIL'EV CLEARLY SEES U.S. POLICY BECOMING INCREASINGLY HOSTILE TO THE SOVIET UNION. THE THEMES ARE HARDLY NEW, BUT THE INDIRECT ATTACKS ON THE PRESIDENT AND THE DIRECT ATTACKS ON DR. BRZEZINSKI SUGGEST A DECISION TO SEVERELY SHARPEN THE TONE OF COMMENTARY ON SOVIET-U.S. RELATIONS. MATLOCK

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BY G. VASIL'EV WHICH HARS
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